

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ARA-16 EA-11 EUR-25 NEA-10 RSC-01 ISO-00

AID-20 CEQ-02 CIAE-00 COA-02 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-11

EPA-04 INR-10 L-03 NSF-04 NSC-10 NSAE-00 PM-07 SCI-06

SS-20 SPC-03 TRSE-00 PA-04 PRS-01 USIA-15 OMB-01

HEW-08 HUD-02 H-03 DRC-01 OPIC-12 CIEP-02 /239 W

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R 302253Z NOV 73

FM USMISSION USUN NY

TO SECSTATE WAHDC 1667

INFO USOECD PARIS 9506

AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

AMCON RIO DE JANEIRO

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 5275

USOECD FOR HERTER

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: UNGA, ECOSOC, SENV

SUBJECT: 28TH GA: UN ENVIRONMENT PROGRAM, ITEM 50,
SECOND COMMITTEE

1. THIS IS SUMMARY MSG REGARDING ITEM 50 OF 28TH GA.
2. PUTTING ASSIDE INTERPLAY BETWEEN ARGENTINA (WITH STRONG CANADIAN AND MEXICAN SUPPORT) AND BRAZIL (WITH STRONG PARAGUAYAN SUPPORT) WITH REGARD TO RESOLUTION CALLING FOR PRIOR CONSULTATION WITH RESPECT TO ENVIRONMENTAL ASPECTS FLOWING FROM USE OF NATURAL RESOURCES SHARED BY TWO OR MORE STATES, ENGINEERED BY ARGENTINA, GA DEBATE ON ENVIRONMENTAL MATTERS GENERALLY UNEVENTFUL. BESIDE ARGENTINE RESOLUTION, WHICH ADOPTED 78-6-41, FIVE OTHER RESOLUTIONS PASSED: TWO ENGINEERED BY SWEDEN; ONE ENGINEERED BY CANADA; ONE ENGINEERED BY JAMAICA; AND ONE ENGINEERED BY ICELAND. SWEDISH
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RESOLUTIONS, WHICH WERE PROCEDURAL, WERE PASSED BY

CONSENSUS. CANADIAN RESOLUTION, WHICH GAVE GA ENDORSEMENT TO PROPOSED HUMAN SETTLEMENTS CONFERENCE IN VANCOUVER IN 1976, RECEIVED WIDE SUPPORT (80-0-9). JAMAICAN RESOLUTION, WHICH CALLED FOR STUDY TO BE UNDERTAKEN BY SYG ON ESTABLISHMENT OF CRITERIA FOR MULTILATERAL FINANCING OF HUMAN SETTLEMENTS, PASSED BUT NOT BY WIDE MARGIN, PROBABLY IN LARGE MEASURE BECAUSE OF IBRD INTERVENTION DURING DEBATE WHICH STRESSED THAT SUCH A STUDY WOULD HAVE LITTLE PRACTICAL VALUE, PLAYS FEELING THAT FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS DID NOT WARRANT SUCH A STUDY (83-3-37). ICELAND RESOLUTION ALSO RECEIVED WIDE SUPPORT (116-0-10).

3. OF FOUR RESOLUTIONS PUT TO VOTE, U.S. HAD LOTS OF COMPANY. FOR ARGENTINE RESOLUTION, US ONE OF 41 ABSTENTIONS; FOR CANADIAN RESOLUTION, US ONE OF 80 AYES; FOR JAMAICAN RESOLUTION, US ONE OF 37 ABSTENTIONS; FOR ICELAND RESOLUTION, U.S. ONE OF 116 AYES. COUNTRIES "ISOLATED" WERE: BOLIVIA, BRAZIL, FRANCE, NICARAGUA, PORTUGAL, PARAGUAY IN ARGENTINE RESOLUTION; EE'S IN CANADIAN RESOLUTION; GREECE, NEW ZEALAND, FRANCE IN JAMAICAN RESOLUTION; AND EE'S PLAYS ECUADOR IN ICELAND RESOLUTION.

4. ON OVERALL BASIS, THREE OBSERVATIONS EMERGE FROM PROCEEDINGS. FIRST, THERE CLEARLY CONTINUES TO BE BROAD CONSENSUS THAT PROBLEMS OF ENVIRONMENT ARE IMPORTANT AND REQUIRE INTERNATIONAL ACTION, THIS BROUGHT TO LIGHT, FOR EXAMPLE, BY NUMEROUS REFERENCES DELEGATIONS MADE TO IMPORTANCE OF SUBJECT, ON ONE HAND, BUT MORE IMPORTANTLY BY RESTRAINT THAT DELEGATIONS SHOWED IN DEBATING ENVIRONMENTAL PRIORITIES. EVEN ICELAND AND CANADIAN RESOLUTIONS, WHILE ADDRESSING PARTICULAR ASPECTS OF ENVIRONMENT, WERE NOT INTRODUCED OR DEBATED IN PARAPHOCHIAL SPIRIT. ALSO, WHILE SOME DELEGATIONS MADE DISTINCTION BETWEEN ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS THAT SHOULD BE HANDLED ON A NATIONAL BASIS AND THOSE THAT SHOULD BE HANDLED ON AN INTERNATIONAL OR REGIONAL BASIS, DELEGATIONS SHOWED RESTRAINT IN PICKING UP THIS THEM AND ATTEMPTING TO "DE-INTERNATIONALIZE" ENVIRONMENT EFFORT.

5. SECOND OBSERVATION IS THAT ISSUE OF ENVIRONMENT
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LESS AMENABLE TO DIVIDING LDC'S AND DC'S THAN MANY IF NOT MOST OTHER QUESTIONS TAKEN UP BY GA. THERE WAS DURING THE DEBATE, FOR EXAMPLE, MINIMAL REFERENCE TO LDC'S VERSUS DC'S OR TO TERM "BIG POWERS." THIS PROBABLY REFLECTS FACT THAT ENVIRONMENT PROBLEM OF SUCH A NATURE THAT IT SIMPLY DOES NOT LEND ITSELF TO USUAL LDC REVOLUTIONARY ORATORY. PROBLEM, FOR EXAMPLE, DOES NOT LEND ITSELF EASILY TO MATTERS OF TRADE AND

DEVELOPMENT, EXCEPT IN PERIPHERAL WAY; NOR TO OTHER MATTERS OF PRIMARY CONCERN TO LDC' S SUCH AS ASSISTANCE TO LIBERATION MOVEMENTS.

6. THIRD OBSERVATION IS THAT IN SPITE OF UNIQUENESS OF ENVIRONMENT ISSUE THAT PRECLUDES SURFACING LDC-DC DIVISION, THIS DIVISION CAN AND WILL BE SURFACED UNDER APPROPRIATE CIRCUMSTANCES. THIS APPARENT TO SOME DEGREE, FOR EXAMPLE, IN VOTE ON ARGENTINE RESOLUTION, WHERE VERY LARGE MAJORITY LDC' S VOTED IN FAVOR WHILE SIGNIFICANT NUMBER OF DC' S ABSTAINED ALONG WITH EE'S EXCEPT ROMANIA. UNDERLYING THEME OF LDC POSITON PROBABLY WAS THAT "PRIOR CONSULTATION" PROVISION OF RESOLUTION COULD PROVIDE BASIS FOR LDC' S TO THWART CONTEMPLATED ACTIONS BY DC'S IN EXPLOITING CERTAIN RESOURCES. ON OTHER HAND, UNDERLYING THEME OF THOSE DC' S WHO ABSTAINED EXCLUSIVE OF EE'S PROBABLY WAS NOT SU MUCH ONE THAT OPPOSED LDC POSITION AS IT WAS ONE THAT WAS GOVERNED BY SENSITIVITY BO BILATERAL ISSUE BEHIND RESOLUTION WITH REGARD ARGENTINA AND BRAZIL. UNDERLYING THEME OF EE'S ON THE OTHER HAND, '7\$&8,& *ROM REMARKS MADE DURING DEBATE, WAS GOVERNED BY RIGID DEFINITION OF NATIONAL SOVEREIGNTY, AND THUS WAS IN DIRECT OPPOSITION TO LDC' S. LDC-DC DIVISION APPARENT TO GREATER EXTENT IN VOTING ON JAMAICAN RESOLUTION, WHERE VAST MAJORITY LDC' S VOTED IN FAVOR AND ALL DC' S INCLUDING ALL EE' S EITHER VOTED AGAINST OR ABSTAINED. ADOPTION OF THIS RESOLUTION FROM POINT OF DC' S CAN ONLY BE TERMED IRRESPONSIBEL. ONLY EXPLANATION THAT CAN BE GIVEN FOR LDC SUPPORT IS THAT LDC' S IN ACCORD WITH THEIR ATTEMPTS AT SOLIDARITH COULD NOT AFFORD SCUTTLE JAMAICAN INITIATIVE, PARTICULARLY AFTER JAMAICAN REMARKS MADE DURING INTRODUCTION OF RESOLUTION ALLUDING TO POSSIBILITY THAT DC' S SCUTTLED EARLIER SYG STUDY (WHICH ONLY BLATANT EXCEPTION TO OBSERVATIONS

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7. IN SUM, AFTER THE GA DEBATE ON UN ENVIRONMENT PROGRAM IT SAFE TO SAY THAT EFFORT WILL GO AHEAD WITH BRAOD-BASED SUPPORT; BUT EVEN IF ENVIRONMENT IS A S CLOSE TO A NON-ISSUE AS PROBABLY POSSIBLE IT EQUALLY SAFE TO SAY THAT IT TOO IS NOT IMMUNE FROM BEING A SPRINGBOARD FOR FURTHER DIVIDING THE LDC' S AND DC'S

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